

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 22 as listed below. The following listing of claims is provided in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121.

1. (previously presented) A base station for use with a wireless communications system, the base station comprising:
an antenna configured to receive a wireless transmission from a mobile device; and
a communication interface, coupled to the antenna, and configured to facilitate communication between the base station and an access network unit over an undedicated public network, wherein the communication between the base station and the access network unit is independent of a dedicated connection.
2. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the communication interface comprises at least one protocol layer.
3. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer maintains an IP address of the access network unit.
4. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer converts information received from the access network unit over the public network to RF signals to be communicated by the base station over an air interface.
5. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer converts RF signals received by the base station over an air interface to information suitable for transmission over the public network to the access network controller.

6. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer provides security information to the access network unit to facilitate secure communication over the public network.

7. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer negotiates quality of service for communications with the access network unit over the public network.

8. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer encapsulates higher layer protocol information to facilitate protocol requirements of the public network.

9. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 2, wherein the at least one protocol layer comprises at least one technology dependent protocol layer.

10. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 1, wherein the public network comprises the internet.

11. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 1, comprising at least one antenna to facilitate communications between the base station and at least one portable communications device over an air interface.

12. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 11, comprising a structure on which the at least one antenna resides.

13. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the structure comprises a tower.

14. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 12, wherein the structure comprises a building.

15. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 1, comprising a structure for housing the communication interface.

16. (previously presented) The base station, as set forth in claim 15, wherein the structure comprises a cabinet.

17. (previously presented) A tangible medium having a software program for use in a wireless communications system, the software program comprising:

at least one routine for facilitating communication of information over an undedicated public network between at least one base station, which is adapted to communicate over an air interface with portable communications devices, and a controller, which is adapted to process information communicated with the at least one base station, wherein the controller is located between the base station and a service network.

18. (original) The tangible medium, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the at least one routine facilitates communication information over the internet.

19. (original) The tangible medium, as set forth in claim 17, wherein the at least one routine comprises at least one protocol layer adapted to facilitate communication over the public network.

20. (previously presented) A method of producing an information packet in a wireless communications system, the method comprising the acts of:

receiving information at a base station from a transceiver unit via an air interface;

processing the information at the base station to form an information packet suitable for transmission to an access network unit via an undedicated public network; and transmitting the information packet from the base station to the access network unit independent of a dedicated connection.

21. (original) The method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein the public network comprises the internet.

22. (currently amended) The base station, as set forth in claim 1, wherein ~~the transceiver~~ ~~the base station~~ is assigned an IP address to facilitate communications with the access network unit over the undedicated public network.

23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) The method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein transmitting the information packet from the base station to the access network unit comprises transmitting the information packet to a base station controller.

25. (previously presented) The method, as set forth in claim 20, wherein transmitting the information packet from the base station comprises transmitting the information packet using one or more Tu-TxrxS protocol layers.